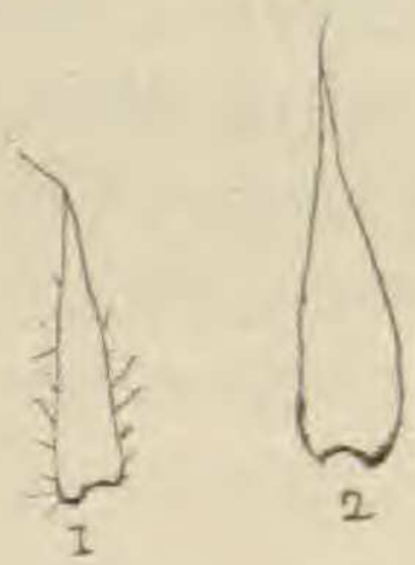
numerous, comparatively broad, and pale to bright brown in color. In the broad, they are fewer, sometimes almost entirely absent, narrower than in the other species and usually white or nearly so. The color test may fail, though rarely, but the shape of the scales, once you have learned to recognize it, is a practically certain index to the species.



In the accompanying sketch, fig. 1 represents a scale of the broad beech fern magnified eight times (about the power of the ordinary lens), fig. 2 one of the long beech on the same scale. The marginal hairs shown in fig. 1 are not a good distinctive character; ciliate scales may occur in both species.—C. A. W.

RECORDS OF MONOMORPHIC EQUISETUM TELMATEIA—In his note in the last number of the JOURNAL, Mr. J. C. Nelson asks if the monomorphic tendency in this species has been observed by other collecters either in this country or Europe. I have no personal experience to relate, but can perhaps give some informatiom as to records in books not readily accessible to all readers of the JOURNAL.

I find no recorded collections from North America other than the "two specimens from British Columbia" mentioned by A. A. Eaton in his account of the North American species of Equisetum in the Fern Bulletin and the records from New Westminster, B. C., given by Prof. Henry in his recently published *Flora of*

Southern British Columbia. Both these records are probably based on collections by Mr. A. J. Hill, one of whose specimens is in Eaton's herbarium at Harvard. There are there, also, two other monomorphic specimens, one collected on the "lower Fraser River, 49 N. Lat." by Dr. Lyall in 1859, the other by Mr. J. B. Flett at Tacoma, Wash., in 1901.

In Europe, monomorphic forms are well known. Milde, in his monograph of the Equisetums, distinguishes two kinds of them. In one, which he calls var. *frondescens*, the fertile stem instead of dying, as usually happens, when the spores are ripe, persists and sends out green branches from at least some of the joints, the fruiting cone and the upper part of the stem withering away. In the other, var. *serotinum*, the sterile stem produces, late in the season, a fruiting cone at the apex. Luerssen says the first form is rather rare but that the second "may be expected occasionally wherever *E. Telmateia* occurs." European botanists agree with Mr. Nelson that drought is the probable cause of these queer forms. Francis, in his book on British Ferns,[1] states that var. *serotinum* can be produced at will in specimens grown in pots simply by cutting off the supply of water at the proper time.

The proliferous form mentioned by Mr. Nelson, in which the stem grows up through the fruiting cone has also been found in Europe. Milde calls it "var. *serotinum d) proliferum.*"—C. A. W.

American Fern Society

Shortly before this number of the JOURNAL went to press, the editors received an interesting and welcome letter from one of the members. In it he said: "It

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[1] Quoted by Clute in *The Fern Allies*, p. 52.